

Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs  
Agenda for April 2, 2014  
5:30pm McCloskey Conference Room

In attendance: Israel Herrera, Luke Wood, Carlos Bakota

Staff liaison: Daniel Soto (outgoing), Rachel Gonzalez-Martin (incoming)

- Approval of March minutes.
- Beverly Calendar-Anderson introduces Rachel Gonzalez-Martin as the new Latino Outreach Coordinator for the COB, and new staff liaison for the CHLA.
- Appointment of Secretary: STILL OPEN
- Reports from Commissioners:
  - Carlos Bakota:
    - Fasting Families call-out event update. Currently a non-active plan, but still considering more way to organize action plan. St. Paul's church pulling away from Hispanic outreach. Currently need more Latino members at the church to rally for a necessity of Latino/Hispanic community outreach and programming. Mentions a need for a possible press release/ editorial about the commission report. Discussion of necessary publicity and follow up to council report. Possible post-report article in the Herald Times.
  - Luke Wood:
    - Discusses possibility of commission report at an upcoming (May) City Council meeting. Need to clarify logistics& scheduling. Proposed inviting or informing community members of the presentation so they might be present to comment on it during the Public Comments portion of the meeting schedule. City council report would likely need to go through the staff liaison. Possibility of making a report from the CHLA as a standard update to the city council every 6 months.
      - Proposed Outline of the Presentation:
        - Introduction to commissioners, activity/programs, and individuals.
        - Revisiting strategic goals in a time of transitional positions/commissioners.
        - Major issues facing the Latino communities in Bloomington and Greater Monroe County
        - Organizers and Actors: Understanding the networks of Latino community outreach extant in the city and their work.

- May 7<sup>th</sup> as tentative date of presentation
- Israel Herrera:
  - May 7<sup>th</sup> would be our next CHLA meeting, cannot cancel meeting all together, but change to a 1 hour time slot at 6pm, then move to City Council meeting. Outreach to public about the council report is key to gaining momentum and support in the community. This means HOLA! Bloomington, Face Book, and the Boletín become a place for Commissioners to reach the public in general. Reminds the commission that another CHLA nominated volunteer has won “Volunteer of the Year” through the Be More Awards, this year Yasmin Martinez. This is the fourth nominee proposed by the commission that has been recognized by the Be More awards. Reminder that Latino Expo on May 3 in Indianapolis will have representatives from Latin American consulate offices from Chicago, could be a resource for Latinos around town.

#### Unfinished Business:

- Wage Increase Group. Status of new commissioners to be appointed, especially someone with legal/law enforcement experience. Ruben Marte a Indiana State Police Captain was interested. Although it was found out by the staff liaison that he lives outside Bloomington City Limits and cannot become an official voting commissioner, but can be as actively involved in any number of other ways. A plan to contact him was put in place. His participation would be best organized before the Commission’s proposed report to council.

#### New Business:

- Commission Discusses the Commission Awards for 2014.
  - 4 total awards: High School Student, Latino Leader, Latino Organization, Latino Advocate.
  - Need an April Press Release for May nomination (to announce before school lets out)
  - Presented in August possibly during Hispanic Heritage Month events.
- Farmers Market Booth: Commissioners discuss the possibility of being part of the Commission on Aging’s farmer’s market information booth. Gracia Valliant is the contact, and it was agreed as a possible point of outreach for the CHLA, however logistics and organizing was left needing formalization.
- Public Comment:
  - Daniel updates commission on wage theft cases currently active in the community. Also announces the new group “Escuelita Para Todos” an integrative Spanish and English learning program for bilingual/ESL students. They complete initial evaluation for children entering the public education system and offer programming geared toward immigrant students. Contact person is Patricia Marvin. This is a pilot project.

- Report from student representatives from the Latino Enhancement Corporative from the IU Campus, Latino Cultural Center. Their goals are to enhance Latino leadership in Bloomington through student action and advocacy. This includes orienting local High School students to SAT/ACT prep, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program and local and area scholarship opportunities.

**Meeting adjourns 7:15pm.**